

Business Operations in February

Productive operations were at a lower level in February than in the preceding month. The index of the physical volume of business which had been 195.4 in the first month of the year receded to a somewhat lower level in February. The trend of production has been downward since the first quarter of 1944 and the recession showed continuance in the early months of the present year. The index of cold storage holdings dropped from 121.3 in January to 114.1 in the month under review. The standing in February of last year was 195.2. The index of sales of live stock on the stock-yards was at a somewhat lower level in February, even after seasonal adjustment.

The majority of the factors showing the trend of mineral production were constructive in the latest month for which statistics are available. Exports of copper and nickel receded to a lower position in February than in the preceding month or in February of last year. The outward shipments of zinc on the other hand were at a higher level than in the second month of 1945.

The flour milling industry showed a slight gain in operations in the last month for which statistics are available, the index rising from 214.2 to 218.8. The manufacture of sugar showed a considerably lower level in the second four-week period, the index dropping from 190 to 143. Employment in the rubber industry showed further gain on the latest available date. The decline in the output of the dairy industry was occasioned mainly by the reaction in cheese production. The output of creamery butter was higher than in January after seasonal adjustment. Canned salmon exports were 7.1 million pounds in February against 7.7 million in the preceding month.

The cotton textile industry was somewhat more active in February than in the first month of the year. The cotton used was placed at 14,568,000 pounds against 14,106,000 in January. The operations of the forestry industry were slightly greater in February than in the preceding month, due allowance being made for seasonal tendencies. The output of newsprint was 308,382 tons against 328,414, the gain having been less than normal after seasonal adjustment. Increases were shown in the outward shipments of wood pulp and shingles while the exports of planks and boards receded from 145 million feet to 127 million. The timber sealed in British Columbia in the latest available month, showed a considerable increase after seasonal adjustment. The majority of the factors indicating the trend of activity in the secondary iron and steel industry were at a higher level in the early months of the year. Recession was shown in distribution through wholesale outlets in the latest available month after seasonal adjustment. Retail sales on the other hand rose to a higher position.

Business Factors in February compared with the preceding  
month and with February, 1945

		February 1946	February 1945	January 1946
Physical Volume of Business ....	1935-39=100	216.7	216.7	195.4
Cost of Living .....	1935-39=100	119.9	118.6	119.9
Bank Debits .....	\$000	5,335,919	4,433,511	5,990,656
Slaughtering:				
Cattle and Calves .....	No.	152,523	162,282	189,225
Sheep and Lambs .....	No.	61,854	56,755	87,625
Hogs .....	No.	373,681	562,713	477,592
Exports of:				
Copper .....	Cwt.	176,376	272,949	281,519
Nickel .....	Cwt.	93,838	227,887	115,268
Zinc .....	Cwt.	353,011	289,443	309,455
Cheese .....	Cwt.	55,635	38,330	93,317
Canned Salmon .....	Cwt.	70,597	9,391	77,334
Woodpulp .....	Cwt.	2,426,209	2,075,608	2,209,328
Planks and Boards .....	M. ft.	127,444	136,680	144,978
Shingles .....	Squares	148,171	145,162	97,926
Raw Cotton Consumption .....	Lb.	14,258,465	13,544,532	14,105,993
Sugar Manufactured .....	Lb.	60,455,249	66,460,830	73,464,100
Factory Cheese .....	Lb.	1,294,371	2,037,331	1,844,984
Creamery Butter .....	Lb.	8,631,597	10,559,482	9,639,678
Newsprint Production .....	Tons	308,382	239,661	328,414

According to preliminary calculations, index showed recession from preceding month.



### Merchandise Export Trade in February

The merchandise export trade of Canada fell to a lower level in February, reflecting the continued sharp reduction in the movement abroad of war materials, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total value of merchandise exported in February 1946 was \$153,143,000 as compared with \$236,364,000 in February 1945, a decline of 35 per cent. In February 1946 the export of war materials amounted to \$120,850,000. In February 1946, war materials accounted for only \$134,000 of total exports. Exports of non-war commodities, on the other hand, were valued at \$153,009,000 as compared with \$115,514,000 a year ago, an increase of 32.5 per cent.

Canadian wheat and wheat flour continue to enter export channels in heavy volume. February exports of wheat were valued at \$15,390,000 as compared with \$4,809,000, and of wheat flour, \$8,801,000 as compared with \$4,252,000. The total value of agricultural and vegetable products exported in February was \$36,692,000 as compared with \$32,328,000. In the animal products group, which rose from \$24,061,000 to \$29,522,000, meats advanced from \$11,351,000 to \$14,132,000, fish and fishery products from \$4,405,000 to \$5,218,000, and furs from \$2,664,000 to \$3,866,000.

February exports of wood and paper products were valued at \$39,678,000 as compared with \$33,052,000 in February, 1945. Exports of planks and boards amounted to \$6,601,000 as compared with \$6,621,000, pulpwood \$1,879,000 as compared with \$1,422,000, wood pulp \$8,971,000 as compared with \$7,617,000, and newsprint paper \$17,259,000 as compared with \$11,852,000.

There was a further marked decline in the iron and its products group of exports from \$54,321,000 in February last year to \$19,637,000. This was due, in the main, to the decrease in automobiles and parts, which fell from \$34,211,000 to \$10,362,000. Amongst the non-ferrous metals, aluminum fell from \$16,143,000 to \$774,000, copper from \$3,430,000 to \$2,307,000, nickel from \$5,877,000 to \$2,346,000, while lead advanced from \$130,000 to \$893,000, and zinc from \$973,000 to \$2,358,000. Asbestos exports fell from \$1,666,000 to \$1,238,000.

The United States was the leading destination for Canada's merchandise exports in February with a total of \$57,563,000 as compared with \$91,518,000 in the corresponding month of last year. The United Kingdom was in second position with \$37,845,000 as compared with \$67,451,000, followed by British India with \$7,325,000 as compared with \$22,080,000.

Canada is playing an important part in the relief and rehabilitation of countries of Continental Europe. Exports to Belgium advanced from \$23,000 in February last year to \$7,169,000, to France from \$4,014,000 to \$6,203,000, Norway from nil to \$1,288,000, Sweden from nil to \$598,000, Netherlands from \$382 to \$3,236,000, and Germany from nil to \$1,475,000. February exports to China recorded a marked advance, rising from \$4,000 to \$894,000.

Canadian exports to Latin-American countries were heavier in February. Shipments to Brazil were valued at \$1,654,000 as compared with \$359,000, Venezuela \$1,537,000 as compared with \$68,000, Mexico \$968,000 as compared with \$560,000, Colombia \$881,000 as compared with \$165,000, Argentina \$658,000 as compared with \$462,000, Peru \$288,000 as compared with \$174,000, and Chile \$259,000 as compared with \$84,000.

### Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 14 totalled 119,322,157 bushels as compared with 354,984,801 bushels on the corresponding date of last year, a reduction of 66.2 per cent. Visible stocks in Canadian positions were recorded at 113,092,571 bushels as compared with 327,264,092, and in United States positions, 6,729,566 bushels as compared with 27,720,709.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 14 totalled 1,599,496 bushels as compared with 1,755,271 in the preceding week. From the commencement of the present crop year to March 14, marketings of wheat aggregated 191,636,870 bushels as compared with 266,918,726 in the similar period of the crop year 1944-45.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 14, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,977,561 (1,832,988) bushels; barley, 422,624 (355,451); rye, 3,568 (12,250); flaxseed, 14,653 (10,419).



### Production of Wool in 1945

Total wool production in Canada in 1945 amounted to 19,626,000 pounds, an increase of 347,000 pounds over the 1944 total, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Although shorn wool production declined by over 600,000 pounds from the 1944 yield, this was more than offset by an increase of nearly one million pounds in pulled wool production, a reflection of the appreciable increase in sheep and lamb marketings during 1945.

Apparent consumption of wool in Canada in 1945 was nearly 11,000,000 pounds higher than in 1944, advancing from 56,449,000 pounds to 67,205,000. The gross value of shorn wool production in 1945 is estimated at \$4,020,000, which is slightly below last year's value of \$4,106,000. Cash income from shorn wool sold off farms in 1945 amounted to \$3,661,000, a decrease of \$106,000 from the income in 1944.

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### Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins in January

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers<sup>3</sup> at the end of January amounted to 844,705 as compared with 882,448 at the end of December and 629,059 at the end of January, 1945. Calf and kip skins on hand decreased from 522,868 at the end of December 1945 to 471,529 at the end of January, 1946. Stocks of other types included 90,145 dozen sheep and lamb skins, 319,165 goat and kid skins and 27,059 horse hides.

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### Fisheries Production of Canada in 1944

The marketed value of Canada's fisheries production reached a new peak in 1944, the total of \$89,419,000 representing an increase of 4.5 per cent over the preceding year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The advance was due to higher prices, as the quantity caught fell off by 4.8 per cent. The sea fisheries contributed \$78,093,000, or 87.3 per cent, and the inland fisheries \$11,325,000, or 12.7 per cent of the total.

The salmon fishery retained the leading position, despite a reduction of 11.5 per cent in the quantity landed. The marketed value was \$16,373,000 as compared with \$15,613,000 in 1943. Other leading species were: cod, valued at \$14,787,000, with an increase of 9.5 per cent in quantity caught and of 13.2 per cent in marketed value; herring, \$11,040,000, a decrease of slightly less than one per cent in catch and of 7.5 per cent in value; and lobsters, \$9,048,000, an increase of 10.7 per cent in landings and 10 per cent in value.

In order of marketed value, British Columbia led the other provinces with 39 per cent of the Dominion total, followed by Nova Scotia with 26.4 per cent, New Brunswick 13.4 per cent, Quebec, six per cent, Ontario 5.5 per cent, Manitoba 4.1 per cent, Prince Edward Island three per cent, Saskatchewan 1.6 per cent, and Alberta, one per cent.

The total quantity of all kinds of fish, including shellfish, taken by Canadian fishermen in 1944 was 11,771,456 cwt., a decrease of 4.7 per cent as compared with 1943. The sea fisheries accounted for 10,908,311 cwt., or 92.7 per cent and those of inland waters for 863,145 cwt., or 7.3 per cent.

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### Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in February

Financing of motor vehicle sales in Canada moved sharply upward in February when 2,917 vehicles were financed to the extent of \$1,845,426, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increases over February a year ago, when 1,726 units were financed for \$807,761, amounted to 69 per cent in number and 128 per cent in amount of financing. A much greater proportion of new vehicle financing, with a greater average financed value, accounts for the higher increase in dollar amount of financing than in number of units. February, 1946 totals included 861 new vehicles as compared with 456 new vehicles financed in the preceding month of January and with only 183 new units financed in February a year ago.

The 2,056 used vehicles financed in February had a financed value of \$825,555. These totals represent gains of 33 per cent in number and 41 per cent in dollar amount over the 1,543 units financed for \$584,703 in February, 1945. Regional results showed that the number of units financed in the Maritimes was almost doubled between February of the two years. The number of units involved, however, is relatively small in that area. The bulk of activity was concentrated in Ontario where a 55 per cent increase



occurred in number of used vehicles financed. Increases of lesser proportions were recorded in other sections of the country with the exception of British Columbia where the number of used vehicles financed fell off eight per cent from February, 1945.

#### Manufacturing Industries of Quebec in 1943

Under the continued impetus of war production, the manufacturing industries of the Province of Quebec expanded their output during 1943, the selling value at the factory of the products made totalling \$2,852,192,000, an increase of 22.2 per cent over the preceding year. Compared with the previous year there were increases of 9.6 per cent in the number of persons employed, 22.7 per cent in the salaries and wages paid. Of the increase of \$518,888,841 in the gross value of production 43.7 per cent was contributed by the iron and its products group, 29.3 per cent by chemicals, 14.1 per cent by non-ferrous metal products, 4.2 per cent by vegetable products, 2.9 per cent by animal products, 2.8 per cent by wood and paper products, 2.7 per cent by non-metallic mineral products. The value of textiles and textile products declined by \$2,553,278 or .6 per cent.

Quebec with about 33 per cent of the Dominion output in 1943 was the second largest manufacturing province. The production of pulp and paper is normally the dominant industry, but since 1942 was displaced by the non-ferrous metal smelting and refining industry for the premier position. In addition to supplying about 6 per cent of the gross value of Quebec manufactures, the pulp and paper industry furnished about 48 per cent of the Dominion total for this industry. The value of tobacco products formed approximately 88 per cent, cotton yarn and cloth 75 per cent, women's factory clothing 68 per cent, leather boots and shoes 65 per cent, men's factory clothing 57 per cent, railway rolling-stock 54 per cent, and non-ferrous metal smelting and refining 51 per cent of the Dominion totals of these products. Quebec is thus an outstanding manufacturing province rather on account of her large individual industries than because of the great diversification of her industrial activities.

From the standpoint of gross value of production the iron and its products group again headed the list in 1943 with an output valued at \$674,027,880, displacing the textile group which normally comes first. Other major groups in the order of their importance are: textiles and textile products \$428,740,491, non-ferrous metal products \$410,157,670, chemicals and allied products \$371,789,166, wood and paper products \$337,206,122, vegetable products \$286,491,549, animal products \$220,610,793, non-metallic mineral products \$101,383,384, and miscellaneous industries \$21,734,798.

In value of production the miscellaneous chemical products industry headed the list with an output valued at \$277,993,561, displacing both the non-ferrous metal smelting and refining and the pulp and paper industries which ranked second and third with an output valued at \$259,643,014 and \$167,460,120 respectively. Other leading industries are: miscellaneous iron and steel products \$161,748,317, shipbuilding and repairs \$130,208,952, aircraft \$95,631,112, cotton yarn and cloth \$95,568,886, railway rolling stock \$86,274,059, men's factory clothing \$85,179,641, women's factory clothing \$83,076,981, electrical apparatus and supplies \$73,178,995, etc.

#### Electric Railways in 1944

The passenger traffic of electric railway systems continued to increase, reaching a new peak in 1944 at 1,249,707,399 for passengers carried by electric cars, trolley buses and motor buses of these systems. The 1943 total was 1,177,003,883. Both the increase and the rate of increase over 1943 traffic were less than the annual increases during the preceding four years. The operating revenues of all electric railway systems increased from \$80,027,414 in 1943 to \$84,730,173, or by six per cent. Operating expenses increased from \$54,548,335 to \$58,202,151, or by seven per cent, increasing the net operating revenue from \$25,479,079 to \$26,528,022.

There was practically no change during the year in the track miles operated. The mileage run by electric cars increased from 124,454,463 in 1943 to 126,629,413, or by 1.8 per cent; trackless trolley buses showed an increase from 1,730,768 to 1,909,375 miles or 7.2 per cent, and motor buses an increase from 37,815,126 to 40,882,550 miles or 8.1 per cent. This was an approximate increase in total capacity of two to three per cent as compared with an increase in passengers carried of over six per cent. Each class of vehicle carried approximately the same percentage of the traffic as in 1943 but the number of passengers carried by each was increased as follows: electric car 6.5 per cent, trolley bus 15.5 per cent, and motor bus 3.5 per cent.



### Urban and Interurban Transportation

Vehicle miles run by urban and interurban electric railway and motor bus systems in October 1945 totalled 25,118,449 as compared with 23,511,712 in the corresponding month of 1944, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Mileage covered by vehicles in interurban service increased from 6,825,050 to 7,892,133, or by 12 per cent, and in urban service from 16,685,662 to 17,226,316, or by three per cent. The number of passengers carried was 135,367,264 as compared with 127,858,387. Passengers on interurban routes increased from 6,864,340 to 7,420,587, or by eight per cent, and on urban systems from 120,994,047 to 127,946,677, or by 5.7 per cent.

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### Births, Deaths and Marriages in January

Births registered in Canadian cities, towns and villages having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 11,677 in January, deaths 5,867 and marriages 3,781, as compared with 11,200 births, 5,355 deaths and 3,166 marriages in January last year, showing increases of four, 10 and 19 per cent, respectively, for births, deaths and marriages.

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### Production of Magnesium Metal in 1945

Canadian production of magnesium metal in 1945 was recorded at 7,449,000 pounds, according to an estimate issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In the preceding year, 10,580,000 pounds were produced. The field of usefulness of magnesium is steadily expanding. Magnesium was formerly used almost exclusively in pyrotechnics, but it is used also as a structural metal, particularly in the form of castings and extruded shapes. For structural use it is alloyed with various portions of other elements. It is used as a constituent in many aluminum-base alloys.

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### Production of New Tin

Production of new tin in Canada in 1945 recorded an advance of 64.4 per cent over the preceding year, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 1945 output was estimated at 850,000 pounds as compared with 517,000 in 1944. Tin is used chiefly in the manufacture of tin plate, mainly for use in the making of tin cans and of containers of all kinds. It is a necessary ingredient of solder and is a component part of most babbitt and other anti-friction metals, without which manufacturing and transportation would be impossible. Smaller quantities are used in foil, which in turn is used for wrapping food, tobacco, etc.; interne-plate, pipe and tubing; type metal; bronze, galvanizing; and in bar tin.

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### Sporting Goods Industry

In the realm of sporting activities, Canada occupies an enviable position. With abundant forests and streams at the disposal of the hunter and angler it provides an inexhaustible source of recreation and pleasure. In other branches of sport also there are abundant facilities for indulgence in healthy exercise, both indoor and outdoor, for young and old of both sexes, all the year around. In 1944 manufacturers in Canada produced the requisite equipment, supplies and accessories to the value of \$5,413,000 as compared with \$4,091,000 in the preceding year.

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### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended March 9 increased to 60,356 cars from 66,083 cars in the preceding week, but were lower than in the corresponding week of last year when the total was 69,287 cars. Loadings in the eastern division declined from 47,392 cars in 1945 to 45,126 cars, and in the western division the total advanced from 21,895 to 23,230 cars.

Loadings of grain declined from 5,752 cars last year to 5,024 cars, vegetables from 1,124 to 744 cars, live stock from 2,400 to 2,161 cars, ores and concentrates from 1,992 to 1,544 cars, iron and steel products from 1,848 to 1,523 cars, and automobiles, trucks and parts from 1,907 to 877 cars. Coal increased from 5,875 to 6,283 cars, logs, poles and cordwood from 1,497 to 1,880 cars, pulpwood from 4,405 to 5,514 cars, wood pulp and paper from 3,729 to 4,077 cars and merchandise - L.C.L. - from 15,191 to 16,640 cars.

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Reports Issued During the Week

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
  2. Manufacturing Industries of Quebec, 1943 (25 cents).
  3. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, January (10 cents).
  4. Wool Production, 1945 (10 cents).
  5. Transit Report, October (10 cents).
  6. Canada's Domestic Exports by Countries, February (10 cents).
  7. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, February (10 cents).
  8. Bed, Spring and Mattress Industry, 1944 (15 cents).
  9. Ingot Makers' Scrap and Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, January (10 cents).
  10. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, February (10 cents).
  11. White Metal Products Industry, 1944 (25 cents).
  12. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, February (10 cents).
  13. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
  14. Dyeing and Finishing of Textile Goods, 1944 (15 cents).
  15. Button, Buckle and Fasteners Industry, 1944 (15 cents).
  16. Miscellaneous Metals in Canada, 1944 (50 cents).
  17. Advance Report on Fisheries, Canada, 1944 (15 cents).
  18. The Sporting Goods Industry, 1944 (15 cents).
  19. Electric Railways of Canada, 1944 (25 cents).
  20. Economic Conditions, January (10 cents).
  21. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, January (10 cents).
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